Overview

French is a Romance language spoken in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada and pockets in the United States. It is also spoken in French territories and former French colonies, although often as a second language. This is a course about the grammar of the French language, focusing on its structural properties – phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax. Like all languages, French varies from speech community to speech community. The linguistic differences among dialects will also be investigated in this course.

Objectives

In this course you will learn about French word and sentence structure, French sounds and sound patterns, and about how all these things can differ in different varieties (dialects) of French. What you learn in this course will help you to understand more about the French language and about linguistics more generally, but the course is not specifically designed to help you improve your French in any particular way.

Requirements

Regular attendance is extremely important in this course – much of the course material is cumulative and there is no textbook.

Participation is also very important. Speak up, ask questions, confirm your understanding – and remember to give others a chance to do the same. It is difficult to quantify participation in terms of a grade, but will be taken into account when final grades fall in a gray area. In cases where the final grade is close to a higher grade, participation may push the grade up; similarly, lack of participation may push a low grade down. So, both for the sake of the overall course and for your final grade, you are heavily encouraged to participate in class and in section.

As a courtesy to others, no cell phones, pagers, or disruptions of any kind during the class hour! Turn off your noisemakers before coming to class.
Administrative Issues

I respond to emails in as timely fashion as possible.

Required Texts

There is no textbook for the course, but I will regularly post detailed handouts on TED, and possibly occasional short readings, covering some of the material discussed in class. You should use these to make sure you understand the course material. Please read them carefully, and ask me any questions you may have about them.

Office hours

You are also encouraged to the office hour if you have any questions about the course. You can also reach me by e-mail, or you can make an appointment to meet with me of us the office hours isn’t convenient for some good reason.

A word of caution: If you have to miss a class for any reason, don’t come to an office hour expecting a rundown of the class you missed. Find out what happened from a classmate, and then come to me with any remaining questions you may have.

Evaluation

Graded work for this course will consist of weekly homework assignments, and a final project. Late homework is graded down by a full grade for each day after the deadline.

Homework assignments

There will be seven (8) homework assignments throughout the quarter. Each one should be written up as a (short) paper. Homework will typically be assigned on Mondays and due on Fridays of the same week. It is very important to write up all the homeworks in a professional manner. Each one should be written up as a (short) paper; that is, it will always be necessary to write prose. Be sure to use complete and intelligible sentences, and illustrate your points with examples whenever possible. Most importantly, you should do your best to explain your analyses as clearly as possible.

Final exam

The final exam will be a take home exam, based on the format of the homework assignments. It will reflect the content of the course. For information on grading, see the grading policy outlined further below.
Extra credit
You may obtain up to 3% extra credit by participating in experiments. One unit on Sona corresponds to 1% of extra credit. It is best to sign up for experiments fairly early in the quarter so that you have a choice of experiment type. There are fewer options as the quarter advances. Credits must be assigned by 4pm on Thursday, March 14th, 2013.

http://ucsd.sona-systems.com - Sona website
http://psychology.ucsd.edu/undergraduate-program/undergraduate-resources/Sona-folder/index.html - detailed instructions for students

Grading scheme (may be slightly modified)

8 homeworks ((lowest grade dropped) 65%
participation 5%
final 30%
total 100%
extra credit up to 3%

Academic honesty
I encourage you to work in groups on homeworks, but this should involve only discussion of the problems and their possible solutions, not the write-up of the solution itself. In other words, we expect that your write-up will not look like anyone else’s. If it does, this will be considered a violation of the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. Any cheating or plagiarism on any homework assignment, the midterm, or the final project will result in no credit for the homework assignment or exam in question, and you will be referred to your dean for disciplinary action. This is UCSD policy and there will be no exceptions. I feel very strongly about this issue and will handle all cases of cheating accordingly.

Course Outline

Week 1

1/7 Introduction
1/9 Phonetics: review
1/11 Consonants

Week 2 - Phonetics and phonology

1/14 Vowels - oral and nasal
1/16 Canadian French vowels diphthongs and lax vowels - check out this site at Laval University (in French)
1/18: Vowes and glides: distribution
Homework: Assignment 1.

**Week 3 - Phonetics and phonology**

- 1/21: Martin Luther King day – No class
- 1/23: Vowel harmony, vowel lengthening
- 1/25: Devoicing and assimilation

Homework: Assignment 2.

**Week 4 - Phonetics and phonology**

- 1/28: Syllabification and linking (enchaînement)
- 1/30: Liaison
- 2/1: Liaison and larger constituents

Homework: Assignment 3.

**Week 5 - Phonology / lexicon**

- 2/4: Schwa
- 2/6: Parts of speech
- 2/8: Lexical dialectal variation

Homework: Assignment 4.

**Week 6 - Morphology**

- 2/11: Derivational
- 2/13: Derivational
- 2/15: Compounds

Homework: Assignment 5.

**Week 7**

- 2/18: President’s day – no class
- 2/20: Verb classes and Verbal inflection
- 2/22: Basic word order: noun phrases and sentences

Homework: Assignment 6.
Week 8

2/25: Agreement within noun phrase

2/27: Pronouns and clitics

3/1: Questions

Week 9

3/4: Questions

3/6: Negation

3/8: Sentential and infinitival complements

Homework: Assignment 7.

Week 10

3/11: Passive

3/13: catch-up and wrap-up

3/15: Review

Homework: Assignment 8.
FİNAL EXAM DUE 3/20 AT 3PM-6PM!!